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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Second Committee (A/46/645/Add.7)]

46/161. Combating desertification and drought

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 32/172 of 19 December 1977, by which it approved the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, 1/ and all its subsequent resolutions on the subject,

Recalling also its resolutions 44/228 of 22 December 1989, on the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and 45/212 of 21 December 1990, on protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind, as well as its decision 44/437 of 19 December 1989, on countries stricken by desertification and drought in Africa,

Concerned at the seriousness of the problem of drought and desertification in many regions, and noting the relevance of the experiences of various countries in combating land degradation in an integrated manner,

1. Reaffirms its resolutions 44/172 A and B of 19 December 1989, concerning implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, in which the General Assembly invited the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, through its Preparatory Committee, to accord high priority to desertification control;

1/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Desertification, Nairobi, 29 August-9 September 1977 (A/CONF.74/36), chap. I.

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2. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification in 1989-1990, including its implementation in the Sudano-Sahelian region, 2/ and requests the Secretary-General to forward that report, as well as the report requested by the Assembly in paragraph 7 of its resolution 44/172 A, 3/ to the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development at its fourth session;

3. Endorses decisions 16/22 A to E of 31 May 1991 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme 4/ and decision 91/41 of 25 June 1991 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme; 5/

4. Also endorses decision 3/16 of 4 September 1991 of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference, 6/ in which the Committee requested the Secretary-General of the Conference to submit to the Committee at its fourth session a report on the financial, technical and institutional needs to implement effectively and efficiently the decisions of the Conference regarding desertification control;

5. Welcomes the priority that will be given to the consideration of desertification by the Preparatory Committee at its fourth session;

6. Welcomes the efforts to combat desertification and drought undertaken by African subregional organizations, such as the Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel, the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development, the Southern African Development Coordination Conference, the Ministerial Conference for a joint policy to combat desertification and the Arab Maghreb Union, and the setting up of the Sahel and Sahara observatory;

7. Also welcomes the continued and substantial technical and financial assistance by the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office to the countries of the Sudano-Sahelian region at the national and regional level in their preparations for the Conference, and encourages the Office to continue and intensify its assistance in that area;

8. Invites the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office, within the framework of United Nations Development Programme round tables and/or the World Bank consultative group, to assist the Governments of the countries of the Sudano-Sahelian region in organizing sectoral/thematic round tables in order to mobilize adequate resources for the protection and sound management of natural resources to arrest and reverse the process of desertification;

2/ A/46/380-E/1991/142.

3/ A/46/157-E/1991/55.

4/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/46/25), annex.

5/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1991, Supplement No. 13 (E/1991/34), annex I.

6/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 48 (A/46/48), vol. II, annex I.

9. Requests the Secretary-General, in light of the decisions of the Conference regarding desertification and drought, to highlight any requirements necessary to implement those decisions in a report to be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session.

78th plenary meeting
19 December 1991